

California Libertarian News

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

Volume IV, Number 4

July 1989

THE FACE OF TYRANNY

China's Government Takes Off Mask

美國自由黨

On May 20 martial law was declared in Beijing, but it wasn't until the early hours of June 4 that the government was ready to throw all its force against the unarmed students and other civilians in Tiananmen Square. This was no snap decision on the part of those in power, since the troops used were brought in from inland provinces and, according to one account, had been kept essentially isolated for over three weeks and told nothing of the reasons for the demonstrations going on in Beijing and other cities throughout China.

When the first accounts of the killing began coming in (June 3, noon, PDT), Chinese students in this country and their sympathizers staged impromptu demonstrations outside the Chinese consulates. In San Francisco and Los Angeles a few Libertarians dropped what they were doing to join the protests. At that time no one knew the extent of the slaughter, and few foresaw how far the government would go in its use of force. After all, this is supposed to be an era of *glasnost*, of *detente* — openness, trust, commerce. But behind all the smiles and friendliness and talk about “good relations between our two nations,” the government in Beijing was still ready and willing to use whatever force it felt was necessary to destroy any perceived threat to its power.

“You can put a happy face on tyranny, but behind the mask it's still tyranny. Today, the government of China took off the mask,” is how Region 62 chair Bob Weber explained the day's events to reporters at a candlelight vigil that evening in Westwood (near UCLA). Libertarians from Regions 62 and 64 were there to show their solidarity with the students in Tiananmen Square. Eyewitness accounts of the slaughter were just beginning to come in.

Those of us at the vigil listened to phone conversations recorded earlier that day when the bloodbath started. Students translated for us, so we had a clear idea of what had happened. The full extent of the horror had not yet been broadcast on the news.

Next day, several thousand people demonstrated outside the Chinese consulates in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and Libertarians were again there to protest the atrocities be-

ing committed by the Chinese government. In Los Angeles, state chair John Vernon was one of those who participated. He and activist Ernst Ghermann were on their way to do some registration work, but rearranged their priorities when they learned of the demonstration. “This is the best place we could have been,” said John.



Demonstration in front of Chinese Consulate, Los Angeles, June 4.
Photo by Bob Weber.

Bob Weber brought a bright yellow “Rattlesnake Flag” — the kind carried by the early colonists. Attached to a bamboo pole, it waved proudly above all the other banners.

San Francisco: Two Consulate Staffers Defect: A week later, June 10, Marin County co-chairs Greta and Bob Bickford organized a demonstration in front of the Chinese Consulate

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News and Events from the Regions

Here and There

REGION 65 (South Bay, Long Beach): It'll be an evening featuring delicious Italian food, at Region 65's fundraiser to raise enough money to open a local LP office and promote the registration drive. Besides the food, an evening highlight will be a "crazy auction." This will be Sat. evening, July 8 at Sam and Carolyn Treynor's home, 1724 Pacific Ave., Manhattan Beach. For information (cost, time, etc.) and to RSVP, please contact Cullene Lang, (213) 595-6266.

ORANGE COUNTY: A big LP social get-together is planned for July 29, to be held somewhere in Irvine. There'll be great hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, but more details were not available at press time. The coordinator of the event is Tom Caldwell, so for more information, he can be contacted at (714) 855-2240.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY: Bill Holmes is running in the special election for the 76th Assembly seat necessitated by the death of incumbent Bill Bradley (R). More information next month, but meanwhile Bill can be reached at (619) 458-8924. Donations may be sent to Holmes for Assembly, 18108 Old Coach Road, Powey, 92064.

REGION 61 (San Fernando Valley): The regional executive committee, on April 5, passed a resolution condemning the persecution/prosecution of Michael Milkin, who lives in the San Fernando Valley. The resolution deplores the use of the RICO statutes in the prosecution, and urges the Justice Department to drop charges since the charges represent "a conflict of interest, since the government would be the direct beneficiary of the huge fines being sought. They are a Draconian, police-state expansion of governmental powers against the citizens of the United States."

Registration Notes

Some regions are really plowing ahead with the registration drive, with different approaches taken in different places. When a region discovers something that works especially well, word spreads to all.

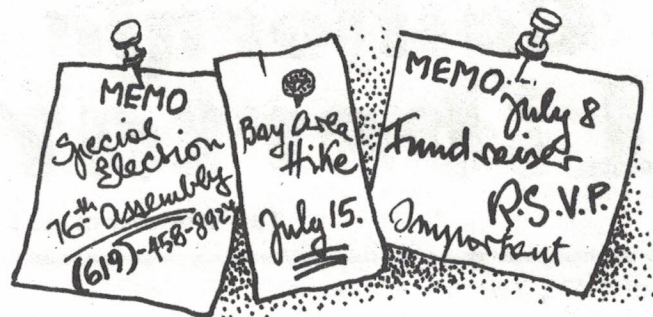
Region 62 has a regular table set up every weekend, with "special events" happening every week. In San Diego, they took a "capital intensive" approach. Organizers there set up a booth at a swap meet and gave away helium balloons to kids. This drew 13 new registered Libertarians. Region 64 tried "targeted outreach." By setting up a booth outside the L.A. headquarters for the Church of Scientology, they gained an 10 new registrants. In Merced County, candidate Roy Shimp

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Please send regional news, calendar items, photos, non-member subscriptions (see below), and other material to:

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staffs a table every Thursday evening at a community farmer's market — providing food for thought to go with the local produce.

Our efforts have met with some governmental resistance, however. Ernst Ghermann of Region 61 was ordered off city parkland, when he attempted to register people at a fair, an occurrence that prompted John Vernon to send a letter to the Secretary of State detailing not only this example of harassment but others as well. (See page three).

John Vernon has also received a letter from the L.A. County Registrar saying he preferred that political parties not attempt to hand out registration materials to the thousands of new citizens at ceremonies at the L.A. Convention Center, as we did in late April, because he felt it would "confuse" them. John writes, "Apparently the Republicans and Democrats were not terribly concerned about confusing our new citizens since they were out there also, and I'm certain have been out there for each of the last 10 years."

July Hikes

Bay Area: Saturday, July 15. No other information as of press time. Contact: Dave Wolen (408) 378-3041.

Los Angeles: No hike scheduled for July.

San Diego: A woodsy walk to a point near the town of Julian. Call for details. Contact: Sara Baase, (619) 460-9136.

• **Important Disclaimer:** These hikes are not an officially sponsored activity of the Libertarian Party. Each person is responsible for his or her own safety.

"Clean Needle" Initiative

The San Francisco LP's "Clean Needle" Initiative has drawn the attention of a member of the Berkeley City Council who is interested in introducing it as a resolution.

Meanwhile, in San Francisco, petitioners have collected about 6,500 signatures. Money is urgently needed to pay signature gatherers for to collect about 3,000 more (\$750), and volunteers are needed to gather another 2,500. It's hoped that a number will be collected on Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day (June 25), when tables will be set up along the parade route. Signatures must be turned in by July 20, so there's only a little time left. Jim Peron reports the effort made by Libertarians is "very disappointing." His experience is not unlike that which Greta Bickford ran up against when trying to organize a demonstration (see page six). Less than a dozen Libertarians are actually circulating petitions.

To make a difference, please call George Meyer, (415) 864-0952, and offer to spend at least one afternoon between now and July 19 collecting signatures. Or send a donation to LPC-San Francisco, 1800 Market St., San Francisco 94102.

Roy Shimp Enters Congressional Race

Encouraged by a number of Libertarians, Merced County chair Roy Shimp has decided to enter the race for the 15th Congressional District seat left vacant by Tony Coelho's (D) resignation. The district's made up of the entire counties of Merced, Mariposa (which includes Yosemite National Park) and Stanislaus, plus West Fresno County, but not the city of Fresno.

Roy (40) has lived in Merced for 17 years. He and his wife Judy are expecting their second child in September.

A graduate of California State University, Chico, in 1971, Roy teaches English and computer technology on the Atwater High campus in the Merced Union High School District. He's voted straight Libertarian since 1980, and registered LP last October. Before that he was always Decline to State.

According to Roy: "This election will most likely be the focus of more than normal media attention. It's being held in an 'off' year, and is the only

Congressional race in the state and potentially the only one in the nation."

With this in mind, he's developing a very high-visibility campaign and plans a number of outreach activities, including door-to-door visiting (by himself and his precinct walkers); sending out press releases on campaign events; getting campaign literature translated into Spanish; arranging for radio spots, etc. He'll maintain his voter registration booth at the Merced Farmer's Market Festival, which is held every Thursday evening, and will have a booth at the Merced County Fair (July 18-23, volunteers needed).

Roy needs your help. He's looking for volunteers to walk precincts and hand out literature. He wants suggestions and ideas from seasoned Libertarians campaigners. He would like help in formulating libertarian statements on local issues: i.e., use of agricultural pesticides; what about the Peripheral Canal? And he needs money.



If you can help in any or all of these areas, please contact Roy at (209) 7233-1768. Donations should be sent to Shimp for Congress, 2165 E. Bellevue Road., Merced 95340.

A Letter to March Fong Eu John Vernon

The following letter was prompted by the outrageous behavior of city park officials who denied one of our activists the right to register people at a city-sponsored festival held in a public park. Ernst Ghermann of Region 61 was threatened with force if he refused to leave — a clear violation of the Election Code.

Sunday, June 4, 1989
The Honorable March Fong Eu
Dear Ms. Eu:

Today I was present at the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles, where I joined five thousand or so Chinese-Americans and others of Chinese descent who were protesting the suppression of political freedoms in China by the present Chinese government. As we know, protestors in Beijing are seeking the freedoms of speech, press, association, and the right to petition for redress of grievances. In America we pride ourselves in being able to call our country "the land of the free."

Yesterday, however, I was distressed to receive a report from one of our registration volunteers that his right to register voters for the Libertarian Party had been violated by a park ranger at the Northridge Park in Northridge, California. The full description of that event is detailed in a letter sent to you by Mr. Ernst Ghermann, (copy included with this letter).

I regret to say this is not the first incident of this sort which has occurred this year as Libertarian Party members have attempted to exercise their political rights to petition for redress of grievances and to register new voters. As recently as 17 April our volunteers were harassed by postal employees at the Van Nuys Post Office and by local police at the Long Beach Post Office. At the Van Nuys Post Office, our people

were able to prevail in persuading the Assistant Post Master to instruct the harassing individual not to interfere with our registration effort. In Long Beach, however, our members were not so successful. There, the Regional Chairperson Cullene Lang was told by a local police officer, "I'm damn sick of your Party!" before being forced to end our protest and registration activity.

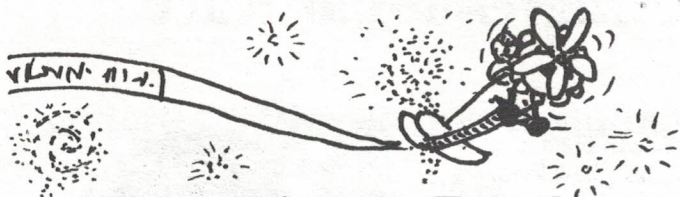
I am writing to request that you, as Secretary of State of California issue a definitive ruling that no peace officer, policeman, sheriff, or other law enforcement officer may interfere with any person in the peaceable attempt to register voters or otherwise petition voters in any public place, including, but not limited to public parks, sidewalks, fairgrounds, and the accessways of Department of Motor Vehicles Offices, city halls, courthouses, and other public buildings.

Since it is my understanding that it is your legal responsibility to investigate any reports of election law violations, I am requesting that you investigate the accompanying incident and prosecute the matter to the fullest extent of the law.

Your attention to this matter will be appreciated. I will await your response.

Toward greater liberty
John Vernon, Chairman
Libertarian Party of California

Editor's Note: As of press time, no reply has been received from the Secretary of State's office, which is appalling but not totally unexpected. Not when you consider that for nearly 15 years Ms. Eu has done everything in her power to keep us off the ballot— efforts which has forced the LPC to undertake costly and lengthy litigation. But we're still here, despite all the roadblocks placed in our way.



Celebrating the Fourth

Libertarians in Orange County and the Los Angeles area should look to the skies and the far horizon this July 4, when a giant banner with an appropriate LP message will be hauled by a plane in a far-flung loop along the coast, over Dodger Stadium, and other key points in the area. According to an *L.A. Times* study, banners like these are seen by as many as 3,000,000 people. Orange County vice-chair Roger Bloxham has been working out the details.

A banner is a simple, direct way of spreading our message and surprisingly inexpensive — about \$700 for two hours of "air play" — if that's the word to use. To help defray the cost, donations can be sent to Roger Bloxham, P.O. Box 8324, Newport Beach, 92660. For more information, call (714) 675-2001.

Roger's also been appointed by the National Committee to develop and promote July 4 celebration ideas of Libertarian groups all over the country.

There's both work and play, depending on where you live. Here are some other ways Libertarians are celebrating the Fourth.

Alameda County: Jefferson believed Americans would always celebrate July 4 with fireworks, but since fireworks are now illegal, the BBQ is the next best thing — at least BBQ's aren't illegal (yet). Wayne and Marion are having one in their backyard. 3:00 p.m. till dark. \$5 will get you chicken or steak, bread and cold drinks. Bring a salad or dessert to share. RSVP (415) 889-1544.

Marin County: local Libertarians will be staffing a literature/registration booth at the Marin County Fair from June 30 through July 4. Volunteers are needed. If you live in the area, give Greta and Bob a call. (415) 453-1400.

Region 63 (San Gabriel Valley): There's a picnic planned at Farnsworth County Park from noon until 4:00 p.m. Softball, food, comraderie — and a special appearance by Tom Jefferson. Bring lunch, and extra mitts and bats. For details and directions call John Tuttle, (818) 242-5699.

San Diego County: It's the last day of the Delmar Fair, which began June 16, and Libertarians have had a literature/registration booth. Volunteers are still needed; call (619) 276-7166.

Photo Captions

1. Libertarians and friends from Alameda Co., Contra Costa Co., Marin Co. and San Francisco gather outside the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco. That's George O'Brien with a Rattlesnake Flag. *Photo by Greta Bickford*

2. Bob Bickford, Marin Co. co-chair, is interviewed outside the consulate by KCBS at the demonstration sponsored by the Libertarian Party, June 10. News coverage was excellent. *Photo by Greta Bickford*

3. John Vernon (right) and Ernst Ghermann explain libertarianism to a Chinese student, in front of the Consulate, L.A., June 4. *Photo by Sarah Foster*

4. You can't miss us! Libertarians are almost front row center at the amphitheater in MacArthur Park, Los Angeles, for the rally June 19. Backs of voter registration signs were pressed into service to carry messages expressing our support of the students. *Photo by Robert Leon.*

Let 1,000 Free Libertarians Show Solidarity



Report from Ti

This is a transcription of a report read at the rally at the Chinese Consulate Los Angeles, June 4, 1989. It is based on one of a number of taped telephone conversations between Chinese students studying in this country and their counterparts in Beijing, which were then translated into English. I was able to record the report as it was being read, but a few words were unintelligible. These have been indicated by ellipses. — Editor

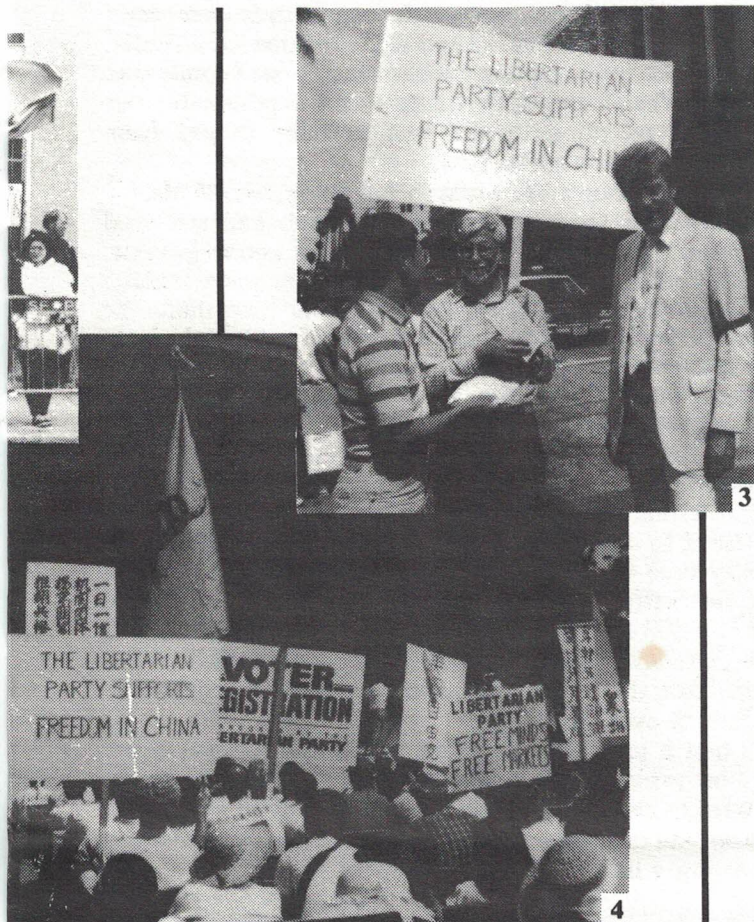
...students had already come to an agreement that the students were to retreat from Tiananmen Square at 7:30 on Sunday morning. But at 4:30, without the students being notified, the troops marched in and shot at them. Many thousands were killed and wounded. The students had to retreat. Over 1,000 had fallen down, being wounded. They had been suffering for weeks. They were very weak. They couldn't walk. They couldn't run and climb before the bullets hit them.

But the one who gave this report was among the last to retreat. When he looked back at the Tiananmen Square, he saw his comrades by the thousands. They were falling down because of weakness, because of the terror, and because of their weaknesses. This student turned around to one of the soldiers and pleaded with him. He said, "Could you allow us, several of us, to come back and help those who cannot walk, to allow us to help them walk away?" The soldier turned the gun at him and said, "No."

Those who were students suffering and hoping to get away, the soldiers came back and they shot at those whom they

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discovered had not died. They gave more bullets to those who still had one breath, to make sure that they are killed. The tanks came up and tread on those bodies. [Then] they poured gasoline on them, upon those who were put upon the pile, who had friends. They were still not dead, but they were like many of the dead. They were burned alive. . .

At 1:15 Eastern Time, early this morning the students in the East of the United States were trying to call those student leaders in Beijing, but they could not be contacted. It was reported that they had all turned underground because the troops, the operator said, had occupied the campuses of Beijing University. One of my friends called from Beijing. Students were sitting in several roads while the tanks were marching towards them. They would not get up and they would not leave. So the tanks just marched through as if there were nobody there. The students were trodden down, and blood was flying into the sky, and dead bodies were found in the trails of the tanks. Two nights ago the troops were using burning gas, and many of the tents of Tiananmen Square were set on fire. Those students who had not left the tents were burned alive. . .

The spirit of the heroes who have died in Tiananmen Square will always be among us and will always inspire us. The spirit of democracy, inspired by the Chinese students, will live on and will inspire us to strike forward until fascism and dictatorship are overthrown.

Power to the People!

"Those Chinese — they make these AK47s. These weapons are so dangerous, the government there doesn't sell them to their own people."—**Nate Holden**, L.A. City Council Member

If there's one thing to be learned from the ongoing horror in China it's the truth of Chairman Mao's statement, "power grows from the barrel of a gun." If ever there was a group of people that needed weapons it was those students who stood defiantly before the tanks, only to be crushed beneath the treads. Armed resistance might not have won that particular day, but it would have narrowed the odds and made it possible to carry on the struggle.

At a hearing earlier this year, Nate Holden, in an attempt (unfortunately, successful) to convince his colleagues to pass an ordinance outlawing "assault rifles," showed one of the dreaded AK47s to the council and intoned about their obvious danger. What went through his mind just a few months later when he saw students gunned down by weapons made by "those Chinese"? Did he remember his words? Did he regret them, perhaps just a little? *Does he think such a thing could never happen here?*

And what did Nancy Reagan think? Did her words "speaking tougher than I usually do" to a convention of CBS affiliates in early April come back to haunt her? Mrs. Reagan told her audience that assault rifles "are weapons of pure destruction that no law-abiding citizen needs or should have," and she added, "Military assault weapons belong in the military, not on store shelves. . ." Chairman Deng Xiaoping and Li Peng would wholeheartedly agree. The CBS affiliates gave her a standing ovation.

Liberty is increasingly underfire, but those concerned are devising a variety of counterattacks.

In the infamous anti-gun bill recently signed by Gov. Deukmejian (see last month's *CLNews*) is a list of banned guns. Hundreds of other guns can be added to those on the list, but to do this the attorney general must notify all interested parties by certified mail of every such intention. Now if *every reader* of this newsletter sent a filled-out copy of the following letter to the office of the attorney general, it would tie "them" up in paperwork as well as adding substantially to the overall cost of gun banning. Add to our couple of thousand members the combined memberships of the gun organizations and their friends, and the cost of adding a gun to the list could go through the ceiling and out of sight. Here's the letter:

Attorney General's Office
State of California
Division of Law Enforcement
Firearms Control Unit
P.O. Box 90317
Sacramento, CA 94203-4170

Dear Sir:

In accordance with California Penal Code #12276.5 Paragraph C, please send immediate notice of any declaration of temporary suspension of the manufacture, sale, distribution, transportation, or importation into the state of any additional firearm. Per this Code section please send notice by certified mail, return receipt requested. Please send notice to: name and signature, address, city/state and zip code.

That's all there is to it. It'll take five minutes of your time and a 25-cent stamp. A small price to pay to keep at least some power in the hands of the citizenry where it belongs. The military and police should never have a monopoly on force or the means of self-defense. Power to the people!

The Sounding Board

"Inactivists" Plague the Regions

Greta Bickford

One of the most frustrating things about being a regional co-chair is the difficulty getting members to participate in activities or even come to meetings. If we have two activists out of ten members, we consider ourselves lucky.

More and more members seem to think it's enough just to send in their yearly dues, and maybe an extra contribution or two; the general feeling being that someone else will do all the work. When it comes to doing any work or participating in some activity, we hear all kinds of excuses, ranging from "I've got to do my hair" to "It's summertime (or wintertime), and it's too hot (or cold)."

What would have happened if our founding fathers had refused to meet in Philadelphia because the weather was too hot? Or if Thomas Jefferson had been too busy to write the Declaration of Independence because he had to get his wig powdered? What if George Washington had refused to camp at Valley Forge because he wasn't in the mood? Where would we be today?

Liberty isn't something that comes from "other people's" work; we all have to be willing to get out there and fight for it, no matter what the weather. Sometimes it may be inconvenient; but rather than putting off the work of Liberty indefinitely, we have to make a commitment to ourselves and the world we want to live in to just do it!

A case in point is the demonstration we organized for June 10 outside the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco. Students in China are fighting and dying for things we take for granted, such as freedom of speech, a free press and the right to assemble. This is a Libertarian cause if there ever was one. I called county chairs all over the Bay Area, from Sacramento to Santa Cruz and every county in between. I must have called at least 20 people; and I asked all of them to call everybody they could. Most of them were quite receptive to the idea

(although a couple were downright obstructionist!), and almost all of the county chairs promised that they'd be at the demonstration, either alone or with some of their members. I informed all of them that we had alerted all the local media, and that quite a few representatives of the press promised to be there. What better opportunity to get exposure for our ideas? The reception by the county chairs ranged from agreeable to greatly enthusiastic.

When the demonstration was in full swing, a total of only 12 Libertarians from a mere four counties had stationed themselves outside the Consulate with signs and flags. True to their word the press showed up, and it was embarrassing. We had counted on a much better turnout than that. The largest individual county delegation was four people from Alameda; two were children.

Despite our small turnout, we did get good coverage from the demonstration (see lead article), and we were able to show our continuing support for the Chinese students. This demonstration of solidarity is not lost on the students who are protesting the atrocities in their homeland and it's heartening to those students in the midst of the turmoil.

Every time we go to these demonstrations, students and other demonstrators make a point of thanking us for being there. By now most of them know who the Libertarians are; we've certainly made a favorable impression on them. We're making sure that everyone knows that we're committed to freedom all over the world.

All that it took to achieve this kind of impact was a few hours on weekends. Our founding fathers gave their hearts and lives to the cause of Liberty. They pledged their lives, fortunes and their sacred honor. I'm sure that each of us can donate just a little bit of our spare time.

Editor's note: Greta Bickford is co-chair of Marin County and was the organizer of a Libertarian presence at the demonstration May 20 at the Chinese Consulate, as reported in last month's newsletter. She is editor of *Free Marin News*, the county LPC newsletter, and her article "Dangerous Dogs" was republished from that publication in the May *CLNews*.

Face of Tyranny

from page one

beginning at noon, then joined the memorial service outside City Hall at 8:00 p.m. that evening.

7,500 people were at the memorial service, and Bob was promised a spot on the program. He was just climbing the steps to the podium when two members of the Chinese consulate suddenly arrived to announce their defection. He never did get a chance to speak. "We demonstrated there at noon, and now two of them have defected. I wonder if there's a connection," said Bob.

He's kidding — or is he? Or should he? No demonstration had been scheduled for noon, which is why Greta and Bob decided to organize one for that time. They handed out an up-dated flyer of one used in earlier demonstrations and carried two Rattlesnake Flags. They also had a large banner with the statue of Liberty, the words "Libertarian Party Supports Student", and (in Chinese) "Support Students in China for Democracy." Joining them and the other Libertarians was a group of students from Foothill College.

All this activity would have been seen by the staff of the consulate, so Bob could well be right that Libertarians were at least partly responsible. "I think we let them know that there's a broad-based support in this country," he observed.

More from Los Angeles: Demonstrations are ongoing in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, as well as other cities across the country. John Vernon, Bob Weber, Neil Donner, and Steve Pencall were among the Libertarians attending a huge (6,500 people) demonstration and protest march on June 19 in Los Angeles. Joining us was Jim Lewis, who was on his way to the Bay Area with John Vernon.

Banners and Flyers: Much of the success of our participation came from the one-page flyers designed by Greta and Bob Bickford. On one side, in huge letters, they say LET 1,000 FREEDOMS BLOOM! and the logo of the Libertarian Party. On the reverse is a heading announcing FREEDOM WORKS AND FREEDOM IS RIGHT, followed by a brief statement condemning the "Butchers of Beijing" and the quotation from the Declaration of Independence that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish a tyrannical government. These flyers were duplicated by L.A. Libertarians, with the telephone contact numbers changed.

As for banners, the Rattlesnake Flag outdoes them all, and is particularly appropriate since 1989 is the Year of the Snake in the Chinese year cycle. If you're wondering what the Chinese characters are that begin this article, they say "Libertarian Party of America." Neil Donner, who reads Chinese, put them on a sign to carry in the protest march.

Whose Desert is It, Anyway?

Steve Pencall

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in a rather scornful tone, "It means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less." — Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*

Last year *CLNews* warned readers about SB 7, the so-called Desert Protection Act, first introduced in 1986, that was intended to create "instant wilderness" of nearly 8.8 MILLION acres of California desert public lands. SB 7 died in committee, but has returned in the twin incarnation of SB 11 and HR 780, introduced by Sen. Alan Cranston and Rep. Mel Levine (D).

These bills would expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments by 1.6 million acres, upgrade them to national park status, and create a 1.5 million acres of Mojave National Park. An additional 4.3 million acres of designated wilderness would be administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

According to the Wilderness Act of 1964 an area must be *roadless* to be considered wilderness. In the areas under consideration, there are 2,200 miles of traditional routes ("two tracks") through the desert, plus thousands of miles of desert washes and canyons also used for travel. But for the bills' proponents a road is not a road unless it's paved or regularly graded. By these convoluted standards the great pioneer routes to the West were not roads because they were not pioneered by a bulldozer! Humpty Dumpty would feel right at home.

The bills would phase out all human activities from the desert that depend on vehicular access, including mining, ranching, hunting, rockhounding, and all sightseeing except that which can be done on foot or horseback. Due to water scarcity, the effect (no doubt intended) would be to render much of the desert inaccessible to all but a tiny number of hardy backpackers.

Behind this proposal is the usual gang of statist suspects. At the prompting of the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, Cranston and Levine introduced the bills. Proponents have gotten the support of most House Democrats. Tom Campbell is the only House Republican in support so far. Sen. Pete Wilson is opposed. All four members of Congress whose districts include the designated areas, (Thomas, Lewis, McCandless, and Hunter) are strongly opposed.



So, too, is a broad spectrum of hunting, ranching, four-wheel drive, and mining groups, plus conservation organizations like the California Wildlife Federation, Izaak Walton League and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. After all, it's hard to appreciate wildlife if you can never see it. Even the National Park Service is against transferring these lands to their jurisdiction. And the vast majority of desert residents detest the bills.

Please hurry. HR 780 is scheduled to be heard in committee in July. Write and let your representative in Congress know you oppose SB 11/HR 780. For more information, contact the California Desert Coalition, 6192 Magnolia, Suite D; Riverside, 92506. Tele: (714) 684-6509.

Editor's Note: The name of your representative is in the government section of the White Pages. Call the local office to obtain both the local and Washington address, then send a copy of your letter to each office. At the very least, telephone to register your opposition.

Steve Pencall is a member of Region 63, a geologist, and an amateur micologist (mushroom collector/connoisseur). Readers of *CLNews* will remember his two articles on "The Deadliest Fungus," concerning attempts by legislators in Sacramento to establish a board to regulate the gathering and sale of wild mushrooms.

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LOCAL EVENTS AND CONTACTS

COUNTY	DATE	EVENTS	CHAIR or CONTACT*	PHONE
Alameda	Mon., July 17	Bill White: Campaigning — Views from the Trenches	Wayne Nygren	415/531-0760
Butte	Tue., July 11		Jessica Strock	916/893-3836
Calaveras			Tom Tryon	209/736-4845
Contra Costa	Tue., July 11	A "Magic" Show	Mike Rother	415/932-4993
El Dorado			Richard Akin	916/622-4785
Fresno			John Graham*	209/275-6220
Humboldt			Daniel Mosier*	707/822-7804
Inyo/Mono Counties		Call County Chair for Information	William Baucum	619/878-2288
Kern			Craig Gifford	805/832-6231
Lake/Mendocino/Napa Counties			Randall Grindle	707/994-4817
Los Angeles County (Regions 61-67)				
-61, San Fernando Valley	Wed., July 12	The Situation in China: Speaker to be Announced	Phillip Myers	818/703-7056
-62, West L.A.	Thu., July 20	David Meleney: Travels in China	Fred Shaefer*	213/837-7209
-63, Foothills	Tue., July 18	Wm. Summers, M.D.: Alzheimer's and the FDA (tentative)	John Tuttle	818/242-5699
-64, Central L.A.	Wed., July 26	What's Ahead for China: Speaker TBA		213/463-5362
-65, Downey	Tue., July 4	Picnic (tentative)	Clark Marley	213/695-1979
-66, South Bay	Sat., July 8	Fundraiser at Sam and Carolyn Treynor's	Cullene Lang	213/595-6266
	July 20 & 22	Bus. Mting, 7/20; Potluck/Speaker: 7/22	Sharon Barracough*	213/534-5442
	Tue., Aug. 1	A Century of Holocausts: Speaker TBA (Albert J. Nock Forum)	G.J. Higgins*	213/285-8171
-67, E. San Gabriel Valley	Thu., July 27	Dinner/Business Meeting	Gail Lightfoot	714/623-1117
Marin	Tue., July 11	Get-together/Discussion: Fair Wrap-up, China Protests, etc.	Bob Bickford	415/927-4814
Merced			Roy Shimp	209/723-1768
Monterey			Bob Ratto	408/424-9346
Orange		Meeting Date to be Rescheduled (tentative)	Richard Martin	213/426-3069
		Liberty Forum Supper Club: No Meeting Till September	Jack Dean*	714/871-0371
Placer			Bruce Daniel*	916/663-2568
Riverside			Ron Holman	714/684-5218
Sacramento	Sat., July 8	Call Chair for Information	David Henderson*	916/922-9973
San Bernardino			Ed Moss*	714/986-6677
San Diego	Tue., July 11	Wayne Litchford: An Anarchist's Guide to the Galaxy	Dick Rider	619/276-7166
San Diego (E. Co.)	Thu., July 27	Barbara Hutchinson: I Found Freedom in an Unfree World	Pat Wright*	619/291-6233
San Francisco	Wed., July 12	Video Night: Title to be Announced	Jim Peron	415/864-0952
	Sat., July 15	Maccabees: Holocaust Revisionism Critiqued (Free Exchange)	George O'Brien*	415/731-3031
San Luis Obispo			David Bersohn	805/466-3963
San Mateo			Lyn Sapowsky	415/368-8148
Santa Barbara	Sat., July 15	Bob Bakhaus: Contractualization and Politics	Bob Bakhaus*	805/965-2741
Santa Clara	July 12 & 20	Discussion, July 12; Business Meeting/Dinner, July 20	Steve Alexander	408/554-1119
Santa Cruz			Tom Coughlin	408/458-2603
Solano			Mark Moberg*	707/864-1673
Sonoma			Jim Oglesby	707/894-2658
Tehama			Ross Crain*	916/529-0853
Tulare	July 13 & 27	Study Group Meeting	Roy Kendall	209/732-3237
Ventura	Tue., July 11	Speaker and Topic to be Announced	Aaron Starr	805/583-3308
Yolo			Bryce Bigwood*	916/758-6219

NEWS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: SATURDAY, JULY 15

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